

Malika Abdul-Basir - Senate Bill 569 – titled the "Michigan Strategic Fund Act."

From: David Waldman <dwaldman@hotmail.com>
Date: 11/7/2011 2:28 PM
Subject: Senate Bill 569 – titled the "Michigan Strategic Fund Act."

Dear Michigan House Committee on Commerce Representative,

I am writing to request your support of Senate Bill 569 – titled the "Michigan Strategic Fund Act."

As you may well know, "the bill would require the Michigan Film Office to create and operate the Film Production Assistance Program, which could provide funds to eligible production companies for direct production expenditures, personnel expenditures, or qualified personnel expenditures for State certified qualified productions. If the Film Office received applications that would exceed what it could award in any year, it could prioritize an application for funding in the subsequent year. The Film Office could not award funding after September 30, 2016."

As a Michigan Actor and supporter of Michigan based film initiatives, I have had the pleasure of observing first hand Michigan residents who have been given gainful employment as Background Extras of the film "Oz: The Great and Powerful" currently filming at Raleigh Studios in Pontiac, MI. In addition, many other ancillary disciplines and jobs are now working on that production. On the other hand, I have spoken with a number of MI actors and technical support personnel who are actively looking for employment in their field outside of the State of Michigan, in States such as Louisiana, Ohio, Georgia, Arizona and even in Canada. They cite the currently cap of \$25 million in tax incentives as the reason for joining the exodus of talent from Michigan.

It appears that Senate Bill 569 may breathe new life into our State's film industry, and woo back some of the dollars that quickly fled as soon as the cap had been put in place.

I encourage your support of Senate Bill 569 and of adequate funding for its implementation. Michigan clearly needs to grow this industry. Growth in the film industry is likely to attract a multiplicity of young professionals who are seeking to locate in a state whose media cultural activities are in development.

Respectfully,
David M. Waldman
Essexville, MI